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nical training, are qualified to determine the mental condition of alleged mentally deficient persons.

8. In several states where laws authorizing psychologists to determine mental status have not been passed, psychologists have, nevertheless, been summoned to give expert testimony in courts, concerning the mental condition of accused persons, and of others engaged in litigation.—LETA S. HOLLINGSWORTH, Chairman, Section on Clinical Psychology of the American Psychological Association.

Criteria for Determining Anatomical and Physiological Ages.—In this series of investigations on criteria of anatomical and physiological ages, the writer has presented new data in the form of a graduated series of roentgenograms of the carpal and metacarpal bones of infants and school children, discovering marked differences among boys and girls and between boys and girls of the same age. For boys the coefficient is higher between the exposed area of carpal bones and height (.879) than for girls (.726) and boys also have higher coefficient of variability (29.94) by the Pearsonian coefficient than girls (12.698). It has been discovered that twins of the same sex may differ greatly in anatomical ages.

Larger boys and girls mature physiologically as a rule earlier than small ones, and early maturity is followed as a rule by a rapid cessation of growth in stature.

Physiological age has a direct bearing on physical training, social adjustment, industrial work, and pedagogical advancement. Another experimental study just completed shows that the mental age of the individual bears a direct relationship to the physiological age as indicated by height and weight. The results show that at each chronological age the physiologically accelerated boys and girls have a higher mental age than those of the average or below the average physiological age. The girls, when classified on this basis, show a higher mental age for a given chronological age than do the boys. Girls are on the average mentally older than boys.—BIRD T. BALDWIN. Abstract of paper presented before the American Psychological Association, Chicago, Dec., 1920.

COURTS—LAWS

On the Age Limit in the Juvenile Court.—There are always two ways of doing a thing. One is to anticipate it, study it, prepare to meet it and develop whatever is good in it. Another, and perhaps more often adopted, is to ignore its presence until its occurrence and then in excitement, hurry and negligently, because unprepared, find many worries, difficulties and perhaps disaster as a result of our inattention. Which of those are we, who are greatly interested, taking with regard to the proposal to increase the age limit of the jurisdiction of the Children's Court? We all know that it will come up, and come up shortly, for already at the last Legislature more than one bill was introduced looking to that end. Knowing it is coming, how shall we act? Let a bill be introduced and then all, at sixes and sevens, rush off to Albany in different camps preparing for and against the measure? Is it not better for all those who are concerned or may be affected to come together, hear both sides of the question, for there are two sides, and wisely determine the best course and how to meet it? There are many sides to be considered.

First: How will it affect the work of the Children's Courts? Will it be necessary only to change the age of jurisdiction from sixteen to eighteen, or would it be better to give a joint jurisdiction to the Magistrate's Court, so that a case of a young person between sixteen and eighteen would in the first instance go to the Magistrate's Court, or in the discretion of the magistrate, to the Children's Court? If this was passed, would it deprive the youth of any right guaranteed by the Constitution? Would it be necessary to make arrangements in the courts for forcible detention places in the case of the larger grown boys? Would it be necessary to provide additional exclusive places of detention for the larger and more sophisticated girls from the younger and more innocent ones? And many of the other questions that would refer purely to the custody of the children.

Second: How would the procedure of the court have to be changed to meet the case? Would the newcomers be charged with felonies and misdemeanors, or would an act by a boy or girl of seventeen years be only an act of juvenile delinquency? Do young people between the given ages appreciate the right and wrong of larceny, assault, burglary, robbery, and the taking of people's property, or even lives? And should they be placed in the minor preventive institutions, or should they, when their responsibility is fixed, be treated with more advanced educational or corrective measures?

Third: Are the institutions now being so generally and so satisfactorily used the proper places for the advanced youth, or should they be sent to the care of the sheriff for temporary care, and to jail, the reformatory or prison for disposition? Are the institutions, such as the New York Catholic Protectory, New York Jewish Protectory, Aid Society and the Children's Village, prepared to receive the older ones proposed? Do the charters of these institutions permit of their taking children over sixteen years of age? Should the charters be amended or should new institutions be organized? Will the managers and supporters of these and similar homes, now being so efficiently conducted, be willing to extend their work? If not, can the Children's Court handle the cases and the youths with better success than the present method? Will the Legislature increase the age for the reception of girls at the State Training School for Girls and the various other institutions that now receive only those under sixteen years?

Fourth: If the change is made, how many more cases will be held in the Children's Courts? Will it be necessary, in order to handle the cases, to slur over the work of all of them, due to the increase of cases to consider, and will it be necessary to increase the number of Children's Courts? Would it be better to establish a "Youth's Court" (as in Chicago) and there treat the cases of the more advanced, rather than crowd out the care of the little ones by herding them and their disabilities into one tribunal with their seniors? Is the problem of the child under sixteen often the same as the one over sixteen, or is it mostly a separate and new problem? And, finally, should not every interest, including those of an older growth, be consulted when we are considering this important proposed step?

At the present time there are but two institutions here that can receive youths over sixteen years and these are the Roman Catholic House of the Good Shepherd for girls, and, in special cases, the House of Refuge for boys.

If we should make the change let us do it intelligently, and before making

the attempt, let us come together and consider whether from all points of view it is wise to do so, and in every way how to secure the best results.

In establishing the Children's Courts the state has secured a real gain, and before this gain is jeopardized, let us make sure the step is one in advance. Is it?—Robert J. Wilkin, Judge of the Juvenile Court, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Re Local Boards of Child Welfare—Laws of New York—Chap. 700.—AN ACT to amend the general municipal law, in relation to local boards of child welfare. Became a law May 11, 1920, with the approval of the Governor. Passed, three-fifths being present.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section one hundred and forty-nine of chapter twenty-nine of the laws of nineteen hundred and nine, entitled "An act relating to municipal corporations, constituting chapter twenty-four of the consolidated laws," as added by chapter two hundred and twenty-eight of the laws of nineteen hundred and fifteen, is hereby amended to read as follows:

§ 149. *Appointment of boards in counties.* The board of child welfare of a county shall consist of seven members of which the county superintendent of the poor shall be ex-officio member. If any county have more than one superintendent of the poor, the county judge shall designate, by writing, filed with the county clerk, the superintendent who shall serve as a member of such board. The other six members of the board shall be appointed by the county judge for such terms that the term of one appointive member of the board shall expire each year thereafter. Upon the expiration of the term of office of a member of the board, his successor shall be appointed by the county judge for a full term of six years. In case of the failure of any appointive member to attend meetings of the board during a period of three consecutive months, it shall be the duty of the secretary of the board at once to certify such fact to the county judge. Unless the county judge excuse such absence in writing for illness or other good and sufficient reason, the term of office of such member shall at once cease and determine. Such excuse shall be filed with and made a part of the records of the board. If a vacancy occur, otherwise than by expiration of term in the office of an appointive member of the board, it shall be filled for the unexpired term. It shall be the duty of the county judge to fill every vacancy within thirty days after such vacancy occurs. At least two members of the board shall be women. Appointments shall be made in writing and filed with the county clerk.

§ 2. Section one hundred and fifty of such chapter as added by chapter two hundred and twenty-eight of the laws of nineteen hundred and fifteen and amended by chapter five hundred and four of the laws of nineteen hundred and sixteen, is hereby amended to read as follows:

§ 150. *Appointment of boards in cities.* The board of child welfare of a city wholly including one or more counties shall consist of ten members. The members of the board shall be appointed by the mayor for such terms that the term of one member of the board shall expire each year thereafter. Upon the expiration of the term of office of a member of the board, his successor shall be appointed by the mayor for a full term of nine years. In case of the failure of any appointive member to attend meetings of the board during a period of